

**SITUATION REPORT NO. 3**  
**INCIDENT NO. 96-37**  
**DATE: April 15, 1996**                      **TIME: 8:00 a.m.**

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer  
State Capitol  
Bismarck, ND 58504

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Spring Flood. (Separate situation reports are being issued regarding Devils Lake, incident #96-01.)
2. DEATH AND INJURIES: None.
3. DAMAGE: In Sioux County, flood water flowed over four roads, causing one road bed to sink two feet.

In addition to highways reported closed in Situation Report 2, travel on US Highway 81 was closed from Grafton to Manvel due to water on the roadway. US Highway 81 also has water over the roadway ½ mile north of Glasston. ND Highway 200 was closed from Halstad MN to I-29. These closings are monitored by state and local officials. Re-opening occurs as conditions allow.

One Walsh County family was forced to evacuate when water overflowed a dike in Dundee Township. Flood waters resulted in the closure of 25 county and township roads. Up to two to three feet of water is reported across US Highway 81, just south of Minto. County Highway 15 is closed between Warsaw and I-29 because of water over the roadway.

Flooding in Minto is affecting over 30 homes or approximately 90 people. Officials estimate about 15 families have been forced to evacuate their homes. In one home, water broke in through basement windows filling the basement with flood water.

The Goose River west of Hatton is flowing over the bridge and roadway on County Road 12. At Hillsboro, the Goose River is continuing its rise. The park is underwater and the petting zoo and golf club are becoming flooded. Ice sheared off a power pole in the Hillsboro Park causing a power outage in parts of Hillsboro for three hours on Saturday, April 13. Power has been restored.

In Dickey County, officials report water is flowing over several roads. One farm family in Northwest Township is isolated due to a flooded road.

In Grand Forks County, overland flooding caused numerous county and township roads to wash out. In Grand Forks City, 32nd Ave South became inundated and has been closed as conditions require.

High river flows and ice jams caused flooding in Lisbon. The Sheyenne River reached a high of 18.96 feet on Saturday night, according to local officials, which prompted a major flood fight response in Lisbon.

The river level gauge at Lisbon was damaged by ice action. Ice and high water levels cut a 200 pair telephone cable in Lisbon on Saturday, April 13, 1996. People in Lisbon north of the Sheyenne River was out of telephone service. Late Sunday, April 14, 1996, service was restored by repair crews representing US West.

In Nelson County, seven township and county roads have been washed out while an additional 15 roads have water flowing over them.

Hydrostatic pressure caused a basement wall to collapse in Lakota.

Damages in Pembina County are occurring from overland flooding and flooding along the Pembina and Tongue Rivers. Inundated and closed roads include County Highways 12 and 9, and the Cook Bridge Road in Felson Township. The O'Keefe Bridge near Leroy is inundated and the road is closed. The Pembina River is out of its banks east of the Paton Bridge on County Highway 55. At least two farmsteads are threatened with sand bagging operations underway. Bowesmont and Bathgate are threatened and the Pembina River at Neche is being closely monitored.

4. RESOURCES COMMITTED:

LOCAL: In addition to previous reports: Amateur Radio Clubs, Burlington Northern-Santa Fe Railroad, NODAK Rural Electric, US West.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: In addition to previous reports: United States Geological Survey (USGS).

5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: Volunteers in affected communities continue to assist with flood fight operations. The Red Cross is providing clean up kits to affected homeowners in Ransom County, Burlington and Carpio.

Over 100 volunteers assisted in the flood fight at Lisbon, primarily with a sand bagging operation.

Grand Forks Air Force Base volunteers and members of the University of ND football team are helping Grand Forks with its sandbagging operation. Over 100 people are involved.

Over 50 volunteers assisted in the flood fight at Minto, primarily with a sand bagging operation.

Volunteers are conducting the sand bagging operations in Pembina County including the Neche and Pembina Fire Departments.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: In Grand Forks, the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is open 24 hours per day. City and county officials are monitoring conditions in preparation for a predicted crest of 43-44 feet late this week. These predicted levels could be aggravated by ice jams over the next several days. A Joint Media Information Center has been established with East Grand Forks, MN to provide emergency public information.

Over the weekend, the ND National Guard provided 25 personnel to support the Grand Fork's city and county flood fight operation. The personnel provided assistance as equipment operators, vehicle drivers, and technical advisors.

A sandbag dike has been erected to protect a farmstead and two homes threatened by Turtle River

floodwater at Manvel.

To protect roads and farmsteads, Grand Forks County road crews cut numerous roads to allow water to drain. Grand Forks City provided additional road barricades to county crews who exhausted their supply.

In Grand Forks city and county, volunteers from the community and Grand Forks Air Force Base, with technical and equipment support from city crews and Guard personnel, filled and transported to strategic locations, thousands of sandbags.

Officials continue to be prepared to place a clay dike on Belmont Road in south Grand Forks if flood conditions require such action.

State Radio Communications has provided Pembina County officials with 12 portable radios for use by dike monitors at Drayton and Pembina.

Cass County Highway Department officials are removing ice jams and snags along drainage ditches and streams to improve water drainage and alleviate localized flooding.

Inflows into Lake Ashtabula reservoir on the Sheyenne River have increased to at least 4,000 cfs (cubic feet per second) requiring the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to release up to 3,200 cfs of water from Bald Hill Dam. The Sheyenne River at Valley City is free of ice and the river is staying within its banks. However, large ice jams formed on the Sheyenne downstream from Valley City. Nine homes at Fort Ransom have been flooded and Lisbon officials had a major flood fight on Saturday, April 13. Ice jammed against the two highway bridges in Lisbon raising water levels. According to local officials, the Sheyenne River reached a high of 18.96 feet on Saturday night. In Lisbon, city and county public works officials, a local contractor, and State Department of Transportation staff and equipment (backhoes, dragline) combined to alleviate ice jams from under bridges on North Dakota Highways 32 and 27. Five homes were protected by a sand bag dike.

Walsh County officials issued an emergency declaration on April 12, 1996. Burlington Northern-Santa Fe Railroad used a crane to break up an ice jam in Minto.

The Pembina County Water Board is cleaning three miles of Drain 66 which is plugged with snow and ice.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: All local requests for assistance have been met.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: St. Paul District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has provided technical and equipment assistance to state and local officials.
9. OTHER INFORMATION: Continuing concern in all areas currently impacted is that dangerous river fluctuations may occur as a result of ice jams.

Flooding so far has left hundreds of households with serious water problems and significant damage to public transportation facilities. Cleanup requirements and total damages have not been determined.

Severe flooding is expected to continue along the Red River and its tributaries in Northeast North Dakota for several days (possibly weeks). Additionally, breakup of ice on Devils Lake has not yet occurred.

Serious damage from recent flood events described in situation reports #2 and #3, Incident # 96-37, may be attributed to a significant February thaw that caused snowmelt which filled ditches and culverts.

These filled drainage systems subsequently froze and remained frozen. Thus, when a second melt of heavy, late March snowfall occurred, the drainage pattern was changed, impacting and damaging transportation infrastructure and homes.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Douglas C. Friez  
State Director